

## **Facts about ACA 1, Redistricting/Term Limits/Fundraising Ban Proposal**

### **Redistricting**

**Strong checks and balances** -- No group has unchecked power:

- Commissioners who are selected under the random selection process -- which has *no* Legislative influence -- can prevent passage of a plan that favors incumbents.
- Commissioners appointed by legislative leaders can prevent passage of a plan that harms communities of interest or unfairly favors one party.
- Discourages any group from trying to stalemate the process in the hope that the court will draw a more favorable plan. Before becoming permanent, any court plan would have to be approved by a new commission or a supermajority of the Legislature.

**Accountability** -- No plan can be passed without approval by a majority of commissioners appointed by elected officials accountable directly to the voters.

**Competency** -- Disqualifies individuals with a direct conflict of interest but does not have disqualifications so broad that anyone with the proper expertise is eliminated from service.

**Includes independents** -- Independents who currently hold no seats in the Legislature would hold three seats on the commission.

**Staff** -- Applies the same vote threshold to selecting staff that is required to approve a plan. Does not disqualify anyone with the proper expertise from serving on the staff, an important point given the small universe of people who are familiar with redistricting.

**Diversity** -- Requires diversity be a consideration in every step of the process (creation of screening panel, establishment of pool of potential appointees, make-up of commission itself)

**Protects minority communities** -- Contains additional protections to ensure that the Voting Rights Act continues to be enforced fairly.

**Puts communities ahead of artificial boundaries** -- Ranks in order of importance protecting communities of interest ahead of preserving city/county boundaries. Also defines what a community of interest is. This is particularly important to minority communities, which often live in small pockets in separate cities.

**Puts communities ahead of artificial boundaries and shapes** -- Ranks in order of importance protecting communities of interest ahead of preserving city/county boundaries. Further makes it more important to draw districts that preserve communities than districts that looks "pretty."

**Does not require nesting** -- A study by the Institute for Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley found that nesting results in an increase in the number of communities, cities and counties split and makes it more difficult to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act.

**Public input** -- Requires public input during each step of the commission selection process. Requires public hearings throughout the state during all steps of creating a plan.

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**Transparency** -- Requires the commission to comply with Bagley-Keene and the California Public Records Act, prohibits ex-parte communications and requires a report on the final plan's compliance with criteria.

**Congress** -- Excludes Congress but binds the Legislature to many of the same requirements as the commission (i.e. criteria, public hearings, report issued with final plan)

### **Term Limits**

**Like Proposition 93-** Reduces maximum amount of time a person can serve from 14 years to 12 years.

**Like Proposition 93-** Reduces office-hopping by allowing a person to serve all their time in one house.

**Clarifies perceived ambiguity in Proposition 93-** Regarding previously termed-out members. Makes clear they would be allowed to return, but subject to the old limits.

### **Fundraising Blackout Period**

**Increases public confidence** -- Assures voters that their elected representatives are focused on the budget rather than fundraising during the critical budget process.

**No unfair advantages** -- Applies to both Legislature and Governor.